

What is the State of Maryland's role in CCHD screening?

- ♥ In 2011, a law was passed requiring hospitals and birthing centers to screen all babies between 24-48 hours of birth for CCHD.
- ♥ The CCHD Program was established in the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs.
- ♥ Pulse Oximetry Screening training was made available to hospital staff.
- ♥ Hospitals report screening results electronically to the CCHD Program.
- ♥ The CCHD Program determines outcomes for babies who failed the screen.
- ♥ The CCHD Program also provides surveillance and quality assurance reports back to the hospitals



Did you know?

Approximately 2 out of every 1,000 infants are born with a critical congenital heart defect.

Screening for a critical congenital heart defect can save a baby's life if a serious heart defect is diagnosed before the baby goes home.

Questions?

- ♥ Ask your doctor or nurse if you have questions or concerns.
- ♥ Call the CCHD Program at **410-767-6736** (Toll free: **1-855-535-5655**)
- ♥ Visit our website:
phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/genetics



Martin O. Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor
Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office for Genetics and People with
Special Health Care Needs

Critical Congenital Heart Disease Screening



*Pulse Oximetry
Screening
saves lives!*

Why do babies need to be screened for critical congenital heart defects?

- ♥ Some babies are born with heart defects that occur during the formation of the heart during pregnancy. These are called congenital heart defects since they are present at birth.
- ♥ Some congenital heart defects require immediate treatment in order to prevent death. These are called critical congenital heart defects or CCHD.
- ♥ Screening helps determine which babies may have a CCHD that needs immediate treatment.



How is CCHD screening performed?

- ♥ A device called a pulse oximeter is used.
- ♥ A sensor is placed on the baby's right hand and either foot with the use of a sticky strip (like a band-aid).
- ♥ CCHD may cause a baby to have different oxygen levels in the right hand from the oxygen levels in the feet.
- ♥ The right hand or a foot should be 95% or greater with less than 3% difference between the two extremities.

When is CCHD screening performed?

- ♥ It is performed 24-48 hours after birth or before discharge.
- ♥ CCHD screening should be done before your baby leaves the hospital.
- ♥ If your baby is born at home or in a birthing center, discuss how to have your baby screened for CCHD with your midwife or your baby's doctor.

Will the CCHD screening hurt my baby?

- ♥ No. The pulse oximeter uses a light beam so this is a painless screening.
- ♥ The screening can be done while the baby is awake or asleep.

What happens if the screening is abnormal?

- ♥ Your baby's doctor will check for reasons for low levels of oxygen in the blood.
- ♥ An echocardiogram (an ultrasound of the heart) may be ordered to test for critical congenital heart disease.
- ♥ Your baby's doctor may also consult with a pediatric cardiologist.
- ♥ Your baby **should not** leave the hospital until further testing has been completed!

Please note.....

CCHD screening is more accurate than a physical exam alone, but it does NOT identify all critical congenital heart defects. If your baby's CCHD screen was normal but he or she:

- seems extra sleepy
- is having a hard time eating
- is breathing rapidly

Contact your baby's doctor immediately!